Funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2721. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds are provided annually to the State Governments and UT Administrations for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) the basis for determining the sizes of funding to be so provided to the respective State/UT;

(c) the details of the items and curriculum which are eligible to be covered under the scheme;

(d) whether the instances of diversion of funds allocated under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and/or under utilisation of the allocated funds have been noticed in the last four years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The funds to the States/UT under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are released each year to States/UTs on the basis of district-wise Annual Work Plans and Budgets submitted by the concerned State/UT, which are appraised by Government of India and then approved by the Project Approval Board (PAB) of the Government of India.

The SSA is a comprehensive programme for development of elementary education and covers *inter alia* opening of and construction of new schools and additional classrooms at primary and upper primary level, appointment of teachers, inputs for improving quality of learning, provisions for meeting the educational needs of children from disadvantaged sections of society as well as of children with special needs.

Unspent balances at the end of financial year are adjusted against the Annual Work Plan and Budget of the next financial year. Regular annual audits are conducted under SSA and their findings addressed.